

VZCZCXRO4042
PP RUEHFK RUEHKS0 RUEHNAG RUEHNH
DE RUEHKO #0568 0640343
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 040343Z MAR 08
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2224
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6453
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 8847
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 4996
RUEHKS0/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 7058
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 0121
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2017
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2151
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8077
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 8659
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 000568

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

11. LEAD STORIES: Top stories on Tuesday morning included a nationwide telephone poll that put support for the Fukuda cabinet at 32 percent and nonsupport at 50 percent.

12. "Putin Laughs in Triumph Again" The liberal Mainichi editorialized (3/4): "...Under a dual leadership structure with President Medvedev, it appears clear that Putin will continue to lead the Russian government.... We are gravely concerned about the lack of transparency in Russia's presidential election on Sunday. Russia's closed nature stands in contrast with the ongoing presidential primaries in the U.S. Putin strengthened his political base through the landslide of the ruling party United Russia. Putin seems to be laughing in triumph over the results. However, elections in which victory is preordained bring to mind the dictatorships in the Middle East and elsewhere. Although the Russian people's hope for Putin's policy of restoring the nation to 'great power' status is understandable, Russia should not turn back to the days of the Soviet Union."

SCHIEFFER